

## Response ID ANON-YSPB-XTFQ-1

Submitted to **Consultation on Social Security in Scotland**

Submitted on **2016-10-28 13:32:44**

### Information About You

#### What is your name?

**Name:**

Barbara Atterson

#### What is your email address?

**Email:**

barbara.atterson@eas.org.uk

#### Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

#### What is your organisation?

**Organisation:**

Energy Action Scotland

#### The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (anonymous)

**We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?**

Yes

### Winter Fuel and Cold Weather Payments

#### Do you have any comments about the Scottish Governments proposals for Winter Fuel and Cold Weather Payments?

**other comments:**

Energy Action Scotland supports the Scottish Government's proposal to extend Winter Fuel Payments to families with disabled children on the higher rate of DLA, and to making payments in advance to households who live off the gas grid. The Scottish Government should further consider whether payments in advance could be made to others who have to pay for their fuel before using e.g. prepayment meter users.

Energy Action Scotland believes that Winter Fuel Payments should continue to be universal at present, because any financial benefit resulting from change is likely to be outweighed by the cost to administer.

The Scottish Government should consider weighting the Winter Fuel Payment on the basis of a geographic split i.e. in line with higher network costs in the north of Scotland.

#### Could changes be made to the eligibility criteria for Cold Weather Payments?

**For example, what temperature and length should Cold Weather Payments be made on in Scotland?:**

The Scottish Government should consider introducing weighted Cold Weather Payments, for example higher payments for areas clearly defined as rural. Too many additional factors (such as wind chill and precipitation) are likely to make the system more complex and costly to administer.

Energy Action Scotland would welcome a reduction in the 7-day period and an increase in the weekly payment.

### Safeguarding your information

#### Should the existing Scottish Government approach to Identity Management and Privacy Principles be adopted for use in our social security system?

Not Answered

**Please explain your answer.:**

#### If yes, should our existing Identity Management and Privacy Principles be adapted in any way?

Not Answered